

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Special Meeting

September 9, 1966

10:00 A.M.

Council Chamber, City Hall

The meeting was called to order with Mayor Palmer presiding.

Roll call:

Present: Councilmen LaRue, Long, Shanks, White, Mayor Palmer

Absent: None

Present also: W. T. Williams, Jr., City Manager; Dudley Fowler, Assistant City Attorney; Reuben Rountree, Jr., Director of Public Works; Robert A. Miles, Chief of Police

MAYOR PALMER announced the purpose of this Special Called Meeting of the City Council is to discuss matters that pertain to the Sanitation Division, and also to discuss a proposed amendment to the Electric Code as requested by Mr. Byron Herron.

The City Manager reported at this time there were seven trucks on the routes, and men from the Water and Sewer Departments, the Parks Division, and the Street and Bridge Department, are supposed to man other vehicles during the day. The down town commercial hauls were made last night and Brackenridge Hospital route was handled. The Director of Public Works said detectives went on the night route. He had met with all the helpers and drivers who were willing to go to work, but they were afraid to start on their jobs. After two of the trucks, manned by Water and Sewer personnel, left the yard, the other drivers and helpers who refused to start on their routes were suspended as of 10:15. The men were told at 7:30 this morning that they could go back to work, but they did not choose to do so. They were also told the effects their not returning to work would have on their accrued sick leave and vacation time.

The Council discussed various facets of the situation, and reviewed again the pay scales in the various steps, and a comparison with the hourly rate from the Labor Temple, etc.

After discussion, Councilman LaRue moved that the Council go on record as stating the pay increases in the budget would be forthcoming. This would apply to all of the City employees. The motion was seconded by Councilman White. The Mayor added that the Council would see that the funds are available. Councilman Shanks stated the City Council would provide the money through taxes or whatever means to pay for them. Roll call on Councilman LaRue's motion showed the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen LaRue, Long, Shanks, White, Mayor Palmer
Noes: None

Councilman Long made the following statement concerning her vote:

"I am voting on this motion at this time, but I think in the meantime we ought to re-evaluate the drivers, helpers and laborers, and see that they are brought up to what the people in the whole area are making on the average. I would hate to see this trouble continue. Furthermore, I think I would appeal to these people to please go back to work and help out in this health situation that might develop because of this work stoppage. I vote 'aye'."

Councilman Shanks moved that the City Manager be authorized to carry out the Personnel Policies. The motion, seconded by Councilman White, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen LaRue, Shanks, White, Mayor Palmer
Noes: None
Present but not voting: Councilman Long

Councilman Long made the following statement concerning her vote:

"I think the City Manager already has that authority, and I think it is ridiculous to restate it and I am going to pass on that because I think he has that authority."

Councilman LaRue asked for clarification of what position the Sanitation employees were in at this time according to the Personnel Policies. The City Manager stated those who are not at work are absent without leave. Absence without leave for three consecutive days has the effect of automatic retirement or resignation. In other words after three consecutive days of absence without leave, they themselves say, "we are quitting".

The Assistant City Attorney said there was a gentleman who appeared at the Council Meeting yesterday relative to being permitted to wiring his house even though he was not married and could not qualify for home owners permit. He said he believed the action he advised the Council yesterday could not be taken. The Electric Inspector reported that it appeared Mr. Herron was not a homestead holder in a single family residence. The building he was to wire is a duplex; and as far as the administration of the Electrical Ordinance is concerned, this is a different situation. The intention was that a man should be able to wire his own place of abode only. This man is not asking for a permit to wire his own place of abode. He is asking for a permit to wire his place and someone else's place.

Councilman LaRue did not want to get in the position of letting one wire a duplex under a home owners permit. Councilman Long stated the Inspector had to pass on it and if he were out building houses, that would be different. The Mayor stated the action the Council took covered a single man working on his

homestead, and that was as far as he wanted to go in this matter. Councilman LaRue stated that would be his position. Councilman White stated as far as he was concerned this would cover wiring the owner's place, only.

There being no further business, Councilman LaRue moved that the Council adjourn. The motion, seconded by Councilman White, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen LaRue, Long, Shanks, White, Mayor Palmer
Noes: None

The Council adjourned at 12:05 P.M. subject to the call of the Mayor.

APPROVED Le. T. & LaRue
Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk